GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:63
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2006
SUICIDE CASES
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of suicide in the Armed Forces reported during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government has ascertained the factors attributed to these suicides;

(c) if so, the conclusions drawn therefrom; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 63 FOR ANSWER ON 27.7.2006

The total number of cases of suicide reported in the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 (till date) in the Army, Navy and Air Force are 120, 116, 119 and 84 respectively.
All the suicide cases are investigated through appropriate Courts/Boards of Inquiry. An analysis of the findings of the same has revealed that, in majority of the cases, this extreme step was resorted to by the individual due to personal and family problems like martial discords; medical, financial or property issues; extra martial affairs etc and not because of professional or organisational reasons.

The measures adopted by the three Services in this regard include increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers so as to know individual problems and suggest solutions in a proactive manner; organizing buddy system and strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit; using services of psychiatrists and counsellors to conduct lectures/presentations and educate officers/personnel; identifying personnel under stress and carrying out psychological conditioning and counseling of identified individuals. These measures are being personally monitored by the Senior Officers. All officers and other personnel in the Services have been sensitised on the above issues.

#This includes 15 attempted suicide cases in respect of Army for the year 2005.